THE

WORLD,

FOR THE

YEAR

ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

The WORLD *was all before him, where to chuſe.*

MILTON.

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THE WORKS

OF

MR. JOHN DRYDEN.

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THE

WORLD.

NUMBER CV.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *January* the 2d, 1755.

AS I am deſirous of beginning the new year well, I ſhall devote this paper to the ſervice of my fair countrywomen, for whom I have ſo tender a concern, that I examine into their conduct with a kind of parental vigilance and affection. I ſincerely wiſh to approve, but at the ſame time am determined to admoniſh and reprimand, whenever, for their ſakes, I may think it neceſſary. I will not, as far as in me lies, ſuffer the errors of their minds to diſgrace thoſe beautiful dwellings in which they are lodged; nor will I, on the other hand, ſilently and quietly allow the affectation and abuſe of their perſons, to reflect contempt and ridicule upon their underſtandings.

NATIVE, artleſs beauty has long been the peculiar diſtinction of my fair fellow-ſubjects. Our poets have long ſung their genuine lillies and roſes, and our painters have as long endeavoured, though in vain, to imitate them: beautiful nature mocked all their art. But I am now informed by perſons of unqueſtioned truth and ſagacity, and indeed I have obſerved but too many inſtances

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inſtances of it myſelf, that a great number of thoſe inеſtimable originals, by a ſtrange inverſion of things, give the lie to their poets, and ſervily copy their painters, degrading and diſguiſing themſelves, into worſe copies, of bad copies of themſelves. It is even whiſpered about town of that excellent artiſt, Mr. Liotard, that he lately refuſed a fine woman to draw her picture, alledging that he never copied anybody's works but his own and GOD ALMIGHTY's.

I HAVE taken great pains to inform myſelf of the growth and extent of this heinous crime of *ſelf-painting* (I had almoſt given it a harder term) and I am ſorry to ſay, that I have found it to be extremely epidemical. The preſent ſtate of it, in it's ſeveral degrees, appears to be this.

THE inferior claſs of women, who always ape their betters, make uſe of a ſort of rough-caſt, little ſuperior to the common lath and plaiſter, which comes very cheap, and can be afforded out of the caſual profits of the evening.

THE claſs immediately above theſe, paint occaſionally, either in ſize or oil, which at ſixpence per foot ſquare, comes within a moderate weekly allowance.

THE generality of women of faſhion make uſe of a ſuperfine ſtucco, or plaiſter of Paris highly glazed, which does not require a daily renewal, and will, with ſome ſlight occaſional repairs, laſt as long as their curls, and ſtand a pretty ſtrong colliſion.

As for the tranſcendent and divine pearl powder, with an exquiſite varniſh ſuperinduced to fix it, it is by no means common, but is reſerved for ladies not only of the firſt rank, but of the moſt conſiderable fortunes; it being ſo very coſtly, that few pin-moneys can keep a face in it, as a face of condition ought to be kept. Perhaps the ſame number of pearls whole might be more acceptable to ſome lovers, than in powder upon the lady's face.

I WOULD now fain undeceive my fair countrywomen of an error, which groſs as it is, they too fondly entertain. They flatter themſelves that this artificial is not diſcoverable, or diſtinguiſhable from native white. But I beg leave to aſſure them, that however well prepared the colour may be, or however ſkillful the hand that lays it on, it is immediately diſcovered by the eye at a conſiderable diſtance, and by the noſe upon a nearer approach; and I overheard the other day at the coffee-houſe captain Phelim McManus complaining, that when warm upon the face it had the moſt nauſeous taſte imaginable. Thus offenſive to three of the ſenſes, it is not, probably, very inviting to a fourth.

TALKING upon this ſubject lately with a friend, he ſaid, that in his opinion, a woman who painted white, gave the public a pledge of her chaſtity, by fortifying it with a wall, which ſhe muſt be ſure that no man would deſire either to batter or ſcale. But I confeſs I did not agree with him as to the motive, though I did as to the conſequences; which are, I believe, in general, that they loſe both *operam et oleum*. I have obſerved that many of the ſagacious landlords of this great metropolis who let lodgings, do at the beginning of the winter, new vamp, paint, and ſtucco the fronts of their houſes, in order to catch the eyes of paſſengers, and engage lodgers. Now to ſay the truth, I cannot help ſuſpecting that this is rather the real motive of my fair countrywomen, when they thus incruſt themſelves. But alas! thoſe outward repairs will never tempt people to *inquire within*. The caſes are greatly different; in the former they both adorn and preſerve, in the latter they diſguſt and deſtroy.

IN order therefore to put an effectual ſtop to this enormity, and to ſave, as far as I am able, the native carnations, the eyes, the teeth, the breath, and the reputations

putations of my beautiful fellow-ſubjects, I hereby give notice, that if within one kalendar month from the date hereof (I allow that time for the conſumption of ſtock in hand) I ſhall receive any authentic teſtimonies (and I have my ſpies abroad) of this ſophiſtication and adulteration of the faireſt works of nature, I am reſolved to publiſh at full length the names of the delinquents. This may perhaps at firſt ſight ſeem a bold meaſure; and actions of ſcandal and defamation may be thought of: but I go upon ſafe ground; for before I took this reſolution, I was determined to know all the worſt poſſible conſequences of it to my ſelf, and therefore conſulted one of the moſt eminent council in England, an old acquaintance and friend of mine, whoſe opinion I ſhall here moſt faithfully relate.

When I had ſtated my caſe to him as clearly as I was able, he ſtroaked his chin for ſome time, picked his noſe, and hemmed thrice, in order to give me his very beſt opinion. "By publiſhing the names at full length "in your paper, I humbly conceive, ſaid he, that you "avoid all the troubleſome conſequences of *innuendo's*. "But the preſent queſtion, if I apprehend it aright, "ſeems to be, whether you may thereby be liable to "any other action, or actions, which for brevity ſake "I will not here enumerate. Now by what occurs to "me off-hand, and without conſulting my books, I "humbly apprehend that no action at all will lie "againſt you; but on the contrary I do conceive, and "indeed take upon me to affirm, that you may proceed "againſt theſe criminals, for ſuch I will be bold to call "them, either by action or indictment; the crime "being of a public and a heinous nature. Here is not "only the *ſuppreſſio veri*, which is highly penal, but the "*criman falſi* too. An *action popular*, or of *qui tam* "would certainly lie; but however I ſhould humbly

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" prefer an indictment upon the ſtatutes of forgery, 2. " Geo. 2. cap. 25. and 7. Geo. 2. cap. 22. for forgery " I maintain it, it is. The fact, as you well know, " will be tried by a jury, of whom one moiety will " doubtleſs be plaiſterers; ſo that it will unqueſtionably " be found." Here my council paused for ſome time, and hemmed pretty often; however I remained ſilent, obſerving plainly by his countenance that he had not finiſhed, but was thinking on. In a little time he reſumed his diſcourſe, and ſaid, " All things conſidered, " Mr. Fitz-Adam, I would adviſe you to bring your " indictment upon the *Black Act*, 9. Geo. 1. cap. 22. " which is a very fine penal ſtatute." I confeſs I could not check the ſudden impulſe of ſurprize which this occaſioned in me, and interrupting him perhaps too haſtily, " What, ſir, ſaid I, indict a woman upon the *Black Act* " for *painting White*?" Here my council, interrupting me in his turn, ſaid with ſome warmth, " Mr. Fitz-Adam, " Mr. Fitz-Adam, you, like too many others, have " not ſufficiently conſidered all the beauty, good ſenſe " and ſolid reaſoning of the law. The law, ſir, let " me tell you, abhors all refinements, ſubtleties and " quibblings upon words. What is black or white to " the law? Do you imagine that the law views colours " by the rules of optics? No, God forbid it ſhould. " The law makes white black, or black white, accor- " ding to the rules of juſtice. The law conſiders the " meaning, the intention, the *quo animo* of all actions, " not their external modes. Here a woman diſguiſes " her face with white, as the Waltham people did " with black, and with the ſame fraudulent and felo- " nious intention. Though the colour be different, " the guilt is the ſame in the intendment of the law. " It is felony without benefit of clergy, and the puniſh- " ment is death." As I perceived that my friend had

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